

November 7, 2009

Mr. Speaker, "Millions do not now have protection or security against the economic effects of sickness. The time has arrived for action to help them attain that opportunity and that protection." President Truman delivered these words in a special message to Congress in 1945, calling for comprehensive health care in America.

Health care in America has been broken far too long, unavailable and unfair for too many, becoming more unaffordable every year. Health care premiums have doubled in 10 years. Health care bills are the number one reason for personal bankruptcies in our country. Health care costs are the number one contributor to our deficit. We spend more on health care than any other country, yet we rank near the bottom in terms of health care results.

This bill builds upon the best parts of our private employer-based system and fixes what's broken to lower costs, increase competition, promote preventive medicine, and protect seniors. Many ideas and concerns from Missourians I represent have been included in this bill to make it even better. History and the American people are calling us to action. The time is now to fix health care in America.